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ACTION ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 ADS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 JUSE-00 FBIE-00 SY-05 CA-01
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O R 272128Z JUN 79
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3826
INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

[REDACTED] SANTIAGO 4451

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES FOR LEGAL ATTACHE

E.O. 12065: N/A
TAGS: CI, PINS, PGOV
SUBJ: / 535/35834/MOFFITT CASE: APPEAL HEARING POSTPONED AGAIN;
OTHER ITEMS

REF: SANTIAGO 4362

1. JUST BEFORE ORAL ARGUMENTS WERE TO HAVE BEGUN IN THE APPEAL OF THE BORQUEZ DECISION ON EXTRADITION, LAWYER SERGIO MIRANDA CARRINGTON REQUESTED A FURTHER ONE WEEK POSTPONEMENT ON BEHALF OF HIS TWO CLIENTS, MANUEL CONTRERAS AND PODRO ESPINOZA. THIS MEANS THAT THE ORAL ARGUMENT CAN NOW NOT BEGIN UNTIL JULY 4 AT THE EARLIEST. RATHER THAN THE SECOND CHAMBER OF THE SUPREME COURT WHICH HAD RESPONSIBILITY FOR JUNE APPEALS, THE CASE WILL NOW BE HEARD BY THE FIRST CHAMBER. MIRANDA DID NOT GIVE ANY REASON FOR REQUESTING THE NEW POSTPONEMENT.

2. WE HAVE RECEIVED COPIES OF ARTICLES THAT WERE TO APPEAR IN THIS WEEK'S ISSUE OF "HOY" MAGAZINE. THE

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MAGAZINE WAS SUSPENDED FOR TWO MONTHS JUNE 22, OSTENSIBLY BECAUSE IT HAD PUBLISHED INTERVIEWS WITH TWO LEADING

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ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

(☒) Release () Excise () Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: () In Part (☒) In Full DECONTROL

() Classify as () Extend as () Downgrade to

Date Declassify on Reason

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CHILEAN MARXISTS IN EXILE. MORE BASICALLY, AS A MINISTRY OF INTERIOR STATEMENT MADE CLEAR, THE GOVERNMENT THINKS "HOY" HAS ENGAGED IN A SYSTEMATIC STRATEGY OF UNDERMINING ITS AUTHORITY. ONE OF THE TWO COVER STORIES FOR THIS WEEK WOULD HAVE BEEN "THE INTERNATIONAL TRAVELS OF TOWNLEY: THE PRATS AND LEIGHTON CASES." THE STORY, APPARENTLY BASED IN LARGE PART ON INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING BY US NEWSMAN JOHN DINGES, IS A FAIRLY DETAILED ACCOUNT OF THE VARIOUS PIECES OF EVIDENCE AND INFORMATION THAT PLACE TOWNLEY IN BUENOS AIRES JUST PRIOR TO THE MURDER OF GENERAL PRATS AND HIS WIFE IN 1974 AND IN ROME SHORTLY BEFORE THE ATTEMPT ON BERNARDO LEIGHTON AND HIS WIFE IN 1975. IT INCLUDES SPECULATION THAT FERNANDEZ LARIOS WAS INVOLVED WITH TOWNLEY IN THE PRATS AFFAIRS AND IT SAYS THAT IN ARGENTINA TOWNLEY WORKED WITH CIVILIANS LINKED TO THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE SERVICE (SIDE) AND IN ITALY WITH FASCIST TERRORIST GROUPS. (COMMENT: THE OTHER LEAD STORY IN "HOY" THIS WEEK WAS TO HAVE BEEN THE REPORT THAT JUDGE BANADOS WROTE TO THE MILITARY COURT WHEN HE SURRENDERED JURISDICTION OVER THE ONQUEN MASSACRE INVESTIGATION. WITHOUT SAYING SO EXPLICITLY, IT POINTS AN ACCUSING FINGER AT THE LOCAL CARABINERO DETACHMENT.)

3. "LA SEGUNDA" OF JUNE 26 REPEATED FOR THE THIRD TIME A STORY ABOUT A \$2,500 CHECK TOWNLEY BOUNCED OFF A PLASTIC SURGEON NAMED ZARHI IN OCTOBER, 1978. A PHOTOSTAT OF THE ALLEGED SOUTHEAST FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF MIAMI BEARS AN OCTOBER 4 DATE (SIX MONTHS AFTER TOWNLEY'S EXTRADITION) AND THE SIGNATURE OF "ANDRES WILSON." ONE OF TOWNLEY'S CHILEAN ALIASES. ZARHI, CONTACTED BY "SEGUNDA," REFUSED COMMENT EXCEPT TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT HE HAD TURNED THE CHECK

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OVER TO HIS LAWYERS FOR COLLECTION AFTER THE MIAMI BANK REFUSED PAYMENT BECAUSE THE ACCOUNT HAD BEEN CLOSED. THE NEWSPAPER ASSERTS THAT FBI AGENTS HAVE QUESTIONED ZARHI ABOUT THE CHECK AND THAT THE CIA IS INTERESTED ALSO. THE DEFENSE APPARENTLY HOPES TO USE THE EXISTENCE OF VARIOUS "ANDRES WILSON" BANK ACCOUNTS (SUPPOSEDLY AT LEAST FIVE ARE KNOWN) TO BOLSTER ITS CLAIM THAT TOWNLEY WAS A DOUBLE AGENT -- EMPLOYED BY CIA AS WELL AS BY DINA.

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